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OPTICAL GRATING BASED MULTIPLEXER DEVICE

WITH POWER TAP CAPABILITY

Cross-Reference To Related Applications

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1/16/07
This application is related to U.S. Serial No. 10/690,857, ^{now U.S.P. No. 6,937,795} which is entitled "COMBINATION WAVELENGTH MULTIPLEXER AND WAVELENGTH STABILIZER" (Optovia 4), has a common assignee and two common inventors with the present application and is being filed concurrently with the present application.

10 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to devices as, for example, transmitters and wavelength multiplexers and demultiplexers that utilize gratings (such as diffraction gratings, array waveguide gratings (AWG), etc.) wherein one or more proportional taps are
15 needed for obtaining input and/or output power.

Background of the Invention

Many prior art devices requiring power taps utilize couplers to tap power off of the input and/or output signal power of the device. More recently, other arrangements have been devised to
20 provide optical power taps.

U.S. Patent No. 5,748,815 (Hamel et al.), issued on May 5, 1998, discloses an optical component adapted to monitor a multi-wavelength link for use as an add-drop multiplexer in optical networks. The optical component includes an input optical fiber
25 for launching a multiplexed signal comprising a plurality of different wavelength signals from a zero diffraction order of a flat blazed grating towards the grating for dispersing the wavelength signals in several non-zero orders of diffraction. A